

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The load securing device of claim ~~15~~, wherein:
 the first mandrel is arranged to engage with ~~the~~ a tie down at a first position on
 the tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the first mandrel; and,
 the second mandrel is arranged to engage with the tie down at a second position
 on the tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the second
 mandrel.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A load securing device with which a flexible tie
 down is engaged to secure a load to an object, said load securing device comprising:
 a first mandrel comprising a first cylindrical member having opposing first and
 second ends;
 a second mandrel comprising a second cylindrical member having opposing first
 and second ends; and,
 a linkage joining the first and second mandrels to one another, wherein the
 linkage comprises:
 a first flexible member that engages and joins together the first ends of
 the first and second cylindrical members; and,
 a second flexible member that engages and joins together the second
 ends of the first and second cylindrical members.

6. (Original) The load securing device of claim 5, wherein the first and second flexible members are lengths of chain.

7. (Currently Amended) The load securing device of claim 45, further comprising:

a sleeve arranged around the first cylindrical member such that the sleeve can rotate with respect thereto.

8. (Currently Amended) The load securing device of claim 15, wherein the ~~first mandrel has opposing first and second ends~~ of the first mandrel ~~that are~~ engaged by the linkage such that the first mandrel can be rotated about an axis passing through the first and second ends of the first mandrel.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The load securing device of claim 15, wherein the linkage connects with the first mandrel such that the first mandrel is selectively secured thereto and removable therefrom.

14. (Currently Amended) The load securing device of claim 15, wherein the first mandrel includes an outer surface arranged to engage with ~~the~~ a tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the surface.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of securing a load to an object, said method comprising:

- (a) securing a first end of a line to the object;
- (b) wrapping the line at least partially around a first substantially rigid mandrel at a first location on the line;
- (c) wrapping a length of the line extending between the first location and a second location on the line at least partially around the load;
- (d) wrapping the line at least partially around a second substantially rigid mandrel at the second location on the line, said second mandrel being connected to said first mandrel by a flexible linkage;
- (e) securing a second end of the line to the object; and,
- (f) removing any slack from the line.

18. (Original) The method of claim **17**, wherein step (b) comprises: threading the second end of the line around the first mandrel prior to step (e) such that the line is at least partially wrapped around the first mandrel at the first location.

19. (Original) The method of claim **18**, wherein step (d) comprises: threading the second end of the line around the second mandrel prior to step (e) such that the line is at least partially wrapped around the second mandrel at the second location.

20. (Original) The method of claim **17**, wherein step (b) comprises: forming a first loop in the line at the first location; and, arranging the first mandrel inside the first loop.

21. (Original) The method of claim **20**, wherein step (d) comprises: forming a second loop in the line at the second location; and, arranging the second mandrel inside the second loop.

22. (Original) The method of claim **17**, wherein step (e) is performed prior to steps (b) and (d).

23. (Cancelled)